



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2005

Contact: Chris Conlan (858) 694-2137

Jack Miller (858) 694-3595

ANOTHER DEAD BIRD TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

Public Urged to Report Dead Birds to County Vector Control

The County Vector Control Program announced today one more dead bird has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), bringing the total number of positive dead birds to two this year in San Diego County. The most recent positive bird was a scrub jay that was collected in Escondido on July 13, 2005.

"We are currently testing crows, ravens, jays, hawks, owls, and falcons that have died within the last 24 hours," said Gary Erbeck, director of the Department of Environmental Health.

The public is encouraged to report dead birds if they meet the following criteria: they have been dead for less than 24 hours; do not have a foul odor; are not covered with ants or flies; are not stiff; and if their bodies are intact and have not been hit by a car, shot, or killed by animals.

For information on West Nile virus, to report dead birds or mosquito-breeding sites, call the County Vector Control Program at (888) 551-INFO (4636). You can also visit the official County West Nile virus Web site at www.SDFightTheBite.com.

###